

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SSM-03 AID-05 IO-13 /085 W
-----058175 262004Z /43

R 261400Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 842
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1194

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PROB, IS, JO
SUBJ: BEGIN SPEAKS AT KIRYAT ARBA

SUMMARY; A SOMEWHAT RESTRAINED BEGIN ADDRESSED A SMALL CROWD OF GUSH EMUNIM LOYALISTS IN THE COLD AND RAIN APRIL 24 AT KIRYAT ARBA. BEGIN TOLD THE ASSEMBLED HE WOULD SAY NO TO DEMANDS WHICH ENDANGERED ISRAEL'S FUTURE AND EXISTENCE. GUSH EMUNIM'S SPIRITUAL MENTOR RABBI KOOK AND ACTIVIST RABBI MOSHE LEVINGER ALSO SPOKE AND RECEIVED APPLAUSE. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI PM BEGIN VISITED KIRYAT ARBA APRIL 24 TO MARK ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY. A RELIABLE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT A THOUSAND PERSONS BRAVED THE COLD AND RAIN TO HEAR HIM SPEAK. BEGIN HIMSELF LOOKED PALE AND ILL, THE CORRESPONDENT NOTED, AND SPOKE IN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED MANNER.

3. THE "JERUSALEM POST" APRIL 25 QUOTED BEGIN AS SAYING:
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"TODAY WE STAND IN A FATEFUL CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE, OUR SECURITY AND OUR PEACE, WITH MASSIVE FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST US. WE ARE CALLED UPON TO DO THINGS LIKELY TO ENDANGER OUR EXISTENCE AND FUTURE, BUT TO THESE DEMANDS WE WILL RESPOND WITH ONE SMALL, QUIET, GREAT WORD --,9"

4. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, AMONG THE MANY OTHER SPEAKERS, TWO RECEIVED WARM APPLAUSE: RABBI ZVI YEHUDA KOOK, THE

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF GUSH EMUNIM, AND RABBI MOSHE LEVINGER, NOW IDENTIFIED AS THE COORDINATOR OF KIRYAT ARBA. LEVINGER CALLED FOR CREATION OF LARGE JEWISH TOWNS IMMEDIATELY IN HEBRON, NABLUS AND JERICHO, THE "JERUSALEM POST" REPORTED.

5. COMMENT: BEGIN'S SOMEWHAT SUBDUED PERFORMANCE APRIL 24 IN HEBRON CONTRASTS WITH HIS FIRST POST-ELECTION TRIP TO THE WEST BANK IN MAY 1977 WHEN HE CALLED AT CAMP QADDUM FOR THE CREATION OF MANY ELON MOREH'S WITHIN A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS, BEGIN'S ONLY OTHER OFFICIAL WEST BANK VISIT WAS LAST SUMMER TO MA'ALE ADUMIN WHERE HE DID NOT SPEAK. SINCE KIRYAT ARBA'S AND NEARBY GUSH ETZION'S POPULATIONS EXCEED 3,000, THE TURNOUT FOR THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES SEEMS MODEST, BUT THE INCLEMENT WEATHER WAS PROBABLY A FACTOR. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, SPEECHES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01194
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780178-1145
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780416/aaaaamxr.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95c72fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2846009
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEGIN SPEAKS AT KIRYAT ARBA SUMMARY; A SOMEWHAT RESTRAINED BEGIN ADDRESSED A SMALL CROWD OF GUSH EMUNIM LOYALISTS IN THE COLD AND RAI
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, IS, JO, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95c72fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014